

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

**Please replace the Abstract with the following:**

A system is provided for managing a database that stores sensitive information. Upon receiving a command to perform a function involving a database object, the system determines if the object is a sensitive object. If the object is not a sensitive object, the system allows the function to proceed. If the object is a sensitive object and the command is received from a normal system administrator, the system disallows the function. Upon receiving a request to perform an operation on sensitive data in the database system received from a user with access rights to the data item and empowered to access sensitive data, the system allows the operation to proceed. If the request is received from a normal user for a sensitive data item, the system disallows the operation. If the operation involves retrieval of a sensitive data item, the system decrypts the data item using an encryption key.